

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please amend the figures as shown in the enclosed replacement sheets. The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 2 and 9. The label "PRIOR ART" has been added to Figures 2 and 9.

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application and indicating that claims 1-9 contain allowable subject matter.

IDS Issues

At the outset, Applicant respectfully notes that the Form PTO-1449 from the IDS filing together with this application on May 19, 2004 has not been initialed and returned. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests return of the same and, if the IDS has not yet been considered, appropriate consideration and return of the initialed Form PTO-1449.

Additionally, Applicant notes that an initialed PTO/SB/08 form was errantly returned with this office action. Specifically, the Examiner references consideration of an IDS filed on October 21, 2004 on page 2 of the office action. Further, the PTO/SB/08 form returned lists an inventor of Akihiko ITO and an application filing date of October 21, 2004, but the present application is made by inventor Shoji Kojima and was filed on May 19, 2004. Applicant respectfully submits that no IDS other than the one discussed above has been filed in this application and, accordingly, believes that the IDS referenced by the Examiner was associated with this application in error.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-9 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 2, and 3 are independent. Claims 4-9 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 2 or 3. Claims 4-9 were amended to remove multiple dependencies. New claims 10-15 have been added in this reply in accordance with the removal of the multiple dependencies from claims 4-9. Thus, no new matter has been added.

Objections to the Drawings

The Examiner objected to Figures 2 and 9. These Figures have been amended in this reply in view of the Examiner's objection. Accordingly, removal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Also, Applicant notes that the Examiner references drawings filed on October 21, 2004 on the office action summary page. However, Applicant filed the formal drawings in this application on September 21, 2004. Thus, it is believed that the reference on the office action summary page is in error and the Examiner intended to reference the drawings filed on September 21, 2004. If this belief is correct, confirmation of the same is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

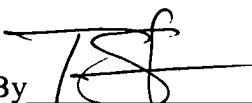
Claims 1-9 were objected to for informalities. The word "whereas" in claims 1-3 was replaced with the word "while." For clarity, "said both transistors" in claims 5-8 was replaced with "both of said transistors." Further, in claim 7, "said" in front of "first transistor" and "third transistor" was replaced with "a." The amendments have addressed all of the Examiner's claim objections. Accordingly, removal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 02008/167001).

Dated:

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Thomas K Scherer
Registration No.: 45,079
OSHA · LIANG LLP
1221 McKinney St., Suite 2800
Houston, Texas 77010
(713) 228-8600
(713) 228-8778 (Fax)
Attorney for Applicant